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incapable of meanness or duplicity himself and equally incapable of understanding meanness in others. He appears in these pages as absolutely devoted to the cause of historical truth—a partizan indeed, since with him to see a thing as right was to proclaim it as the only right, unsparing in denunciation of what he felt ought to be denounced and eloquent in praise of what he approved. Mr. Paul is quite aware of Froude's defects in what he continually describes as minor details, but he makes a vigorous plea for that view of historical writing which would overlook an apparent indifference to detail in the far greater importance of the general impression to be produced.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*The Negro and the Nation: a History of American Slavery and Enfranchisement.* By GEORGE S. MERRIAM. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1906. Pp. iv, 436.)

THIS is not a history, but a chronological survey of the literature of the slavery and negro problems. It has no foot-notes, no bibliography, and it bristles with personal judgments. The material used in its preparation is that which has some claim to be called literature in the narrower sense; it does not include the *Congressional Globe*, the works of minor men, nor historical monographs. The author, whose personality blazes from every page, is evidently a Puritan gentleman of the best modern type. In his journey through his country's history he has met and entered into sympathy with every reputable type of Northern opinion; he has met, listened to, and in many cases agreed with the best types of Southern opinion, but has never entered into sympathy with them.

The author's general knowledge of ordinary historical facts seems, on the whole, adequate, but some mistakes have crept in. The "tariff of abominations" was not in force in 1832 (p. 32); Calhoun was not Secretary of War in 1844 (p. 75); the whole discussion of the annexation of Texas is inaccurate (pp. 75-76). For the period after 1850 mistakes are very rare. In his discussion of the early tariff the author is apparently unconscious of the existence of the West. He nowhere brings out the internal economic forces which compelled slavery to spread westward or die; consequently he misses the whole force of the territorial controversy, the conflict between the westward-pushing streams of free and slave labor. He represents the struggle as a strife between a static South and a static North, each receiving occasional accessions of strength as new states were created. Consequently he fails to note the significance of the question of expansion in 1861 and to define the exact point upon which Lincoln elected to fight rather than to compromise. The constitutional questions involved are rather vaguely handled, a modern characteristic. To complete the category of detraction, one closes the book with a feeling akin to that one might expect after a performance of Shakespeare's most famous play in the manner so often suggested to our imagination. The negro is present only as a lay-figure.

As the economic elements in the struggle are so largely overlooked, and the Constitution, the motif of so many histories, is only casually treated, emphasis is naturally thrown on the conflict of opinion. It is in the discussion of this phase that the value of the book lies. Viewed from this aspect, it divides into two sections, one before and one after 1861, when the Civil War broke out and when the author entered college. Before that date the history of opinion is well-rounded, and, at points, original and interesting; particularly good are the discussions of the beginning of the agitation in North and South (pp. 35-45), the review of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (pp. 97-111), and the chapter on Kansas (pp. 112-121). After 1861 the author presents almost solely the Liberal Republican view, but presents it with an intimacy of feeling and knowledge that makes it of value as a source. Instead of character-studies, we have summaries of the opinions, and estimates of the importance and worth, of the principal figures involved. To say that they seem sound is but to infer that they are, to a degree, those held by the reviewer. It is refreshing to see the prominence assigned to William Ellery Channing, Governor Andrew, and Samuel Chapman Armstrong. The author is optimistic as to the future. He believes that the negro has made considerable progress industrially and in domestic morality; he reprobates the recent suffrage laws of the South, but does not favor the enforcement of the penalties of the Fourteenth Amendment, for fear of intensifying race antagonism; he advocates national aid for Southern education; and he dreams of social equality. The style is terse and interesting, and the book has a good index.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

*Old France in the New World: Quebec in the Seventeenth Century.*

By JAMES DOUGLAS, LL.D. (Cleveland and London: The Burrows Brothers Company. 1905. Pp. 597.)

QUEBEC in the seventeenth century is indeed the springtime of our history. It marks an age of enterprise and experiment, when Old-World customs and institutions were transplanted to the New World. To trace the progress of the century, to record its trials and its triumphs, to bring out in relief the characters and passions which it developed, and to control the opposing elements through which it struggled require not only a deep knowledge of Quebec and of its literature, but also a touch of the genius of a Parkman. Dr. Douglas has not the skill of a Parkman, neither has he striven to introduce anything new into his work, having been content to derive his facts and his inspiration from sources already in print. But he has this great advantage over many writers. He has passed many of the best years of his life in Quebec, and he who loves Quebec and leaves her remembers her long and well. Although one may regret that the author has not taken advantage of the opportunities open to him for research, the book as it stands is well worthy of careful consideration. It is not a hostilely written work, but the out-